DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

Permittee: United States Navy

Commanding Officer

Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay

1063 USS Tennessee Avenue

Kings Bay, Georgia 31547-2606

Permit No: SAJ-1992-1854-BAL

Issuing Office: U.S. Army Engineer District, Jacksonville

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the Corps of Engineers having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below.

Project Description: To maintenance dredge the Kings Bay Entrance Channel, and place beach quality material on the beach, near beach quality material at the near shore disposal area and transport dredge material to the Fernandina Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) for disposal. Approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards (cy) of material will be dredged annually. dredging in the entrance channel (Cut 1N) from Station 00+00 to 501+00 will be maintenance dredged to -51 feet Mean Low Lower Water (MLLW) (46 ft required depth + 3 ft advance maintenance + 2 ft allowable over depth). The turning basin on each side of Cut $1N_{\star}$, Stations 10+00 to 70+00, near the shoreward end of the entrance channel will be maintenance dredge to -47 MLLW (42 feet required depth + 3 ft advance maintenance depth and +2 allowable over depth) and a bottom width of 350 feet. The settling basin along the north side of Cut 1N, Stations 119+00 to 176+00, will be maintenance dredge to -51 MLLW (46 feet required depth + 3 ft advance maintenance depth and +2 allowable over depth) and a bottom width of 300 feet. The settling basin on each side of Cut 1N, Stations 176+00 to 226+00, will be maintenance dredge to -51MLLW (46 feet required depth + 3 ft advance maintenance depth and +2 allowable over depth) and a bottom width of 150 feet. The section of the channel for Range A will be dredged to -47 MLLW (45 feet required depth + 2 ft allowable over depth). material will be placed in several locations along Amelia Island or transported to the ODMDS. The dredge material placed on the beach at the Ft. Clinch State Park will be constructed at +13 MLLW line following the 150-foot berm (variable in width) with a

PERMITTEE: U.S Navy

PAGE 2 of 14

seaward slope of 10:1 (H:V). The dredge material placed on the beach at the North Beach Amelia Island and South Beach Amelia Island placement areas will be constructed at +13 MLLW line following the 150-foot berm (variable in width) with a seaward slope of 20:1 (H:V). The material for the nearshore placement area will be constructed from the existing beach to approximately -35 MLLW. Dredge material from Camden County, Georgia, permitted under another permit (960010370) will be placed in beach placement areas. Also, up to 950,000 cy of material will be transported and placed in the ODMDS. The work described above is to be completed in accordance with the 10 pages of drawings and 6 attachments affixed at the end of this permit instrument.

Project Location:

Dredge Work Location - Material will be dredged from the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base (KBNSB) Entrance Channel at Cut 1N Station 0+00 to Station 501+00 and includes two settling basins between Station 119+00 and 227+00 and a turning basin between Station 11+00 and 71+00. The main channel is approximately 500' wide, the turning basin is an additional 350' wider than the main channel, and the settling basin is an additional 300' wider than the main channel on the northern limit and shifts to 150' wide on the southern limit. The majority of the dredging work for Cut 1N is in Florida, but there is work in Georgia at the channel widener and the north border of the entrance channel in Camden County, Georgia. Also, a small triangular section in Range A, Nassau County, Florida will be dredged.

Beach and Nearshore Placement Location - There are three beach placement locations, which are: Fort Clinch State Park, North Beach Amelia Island and South Beach Amelia Island. There is also a nearshore placement area. The placement of the material would depend on the type of dredge material. Beach quality material will be placed at Fort Clinch State Park, North Beach Amelia Island, and South Beach Amelia Island beach placement areas. Near beach quality material will be placed in the nearshore placement area. The four corners of the nearshore placement site have been identified as:

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Northwest corner (Point A) 885,819.54 X; 231,829.70 Y
Northeast corner (Point B) 902,220.48 X; 231,829.70 Y
Southeast corner (Point C) 902,220.48 X; 219,329.70 Y
Southwest corner (Point D) 884,000.00 X; 219,329.70 Y
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PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 3 of 14

Offshore Disposal Site Location: All other material, such as silts and fines will be transported seaward and deposited in the Fernandina Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) located in the Atlantic Ocean. The center of the disposal site is located approximately 7 miles east of the south end of Amelia Island and depth range from -40.5 to 67.7 MLLW. The site has an area of about four-square nautical miles. The corners of the offshore site have been identified as:

Northwest Latitude 30°33'00" N., Longitude 81°19'08" W. Northeast Latitude 30°33'00" N., Longitude 81°16'52" W. Southeast Latitude 30°31'00" N., Longitude 81°16'52" W. Southwest Latitude 30°31'00" N., Longitude 81°19'08" W.

Permit Conditions

General Conditions:

- 1. The time limit for completing the work authorized under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act ends on 31 AUGUST 2008. The time limit for completing the work authorized under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act ends on 31 AUGUST 2011. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.
- 2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
- 3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 4 of 14

recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

- 4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature and the mailing address of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
- 5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.
- 6. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

Special Conditions:

I. OVERALL CONDITIONS

- 1. The permittee shall send to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Regulatory Division, Enforcement Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019 and EPA Region 4's Wetlands, Coastal and Watersheds Branch, 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, GA 30303 a notification of commencement of work at least 15 days before initiation of any dredging operations authorized by this permit. This notification and all subsequent submittals shall be sent to the Corps and EPA and shall reference permit number SAJ-1992-1854-BAL.
- 2. The permittee acknowledges that authorization for transport of dredged material to the Jacksonville ODMDS is not valid until concurrency is granted from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- 3. The permittee acknowledges that they shall be in compliance with the monitoring and reporting requirements as stated in the Site Monitoring and Management Plan (SMMP) for the Fernandina disposal site dated December 1998 and the SMMP Addendum #1 dated October 2001.

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 5 of 14

II. ENDANGERED SPECIES

Manatee

- 4. The permitee shall provide a dedicated, experienced manatee observer during daylight hours when dredging during the months of September and October. The observer shall be equipped with polarized sunglasses and be in a position to observe all waters within 300 feet of the dredge barge. The manatee observer will advise the appropriate operations personnel when a manatee is within 300 feet of the operations. Appropriate personnel shall then follow the standard construction conditions. The manatee observer will give an all-clear signal when the manatee(s) has departed the project area of its own volition.
- 5. The permittee shall provide mooring bumpers on all barges, tugs, and similar large vessels wherever and whenever there are a potential for manatee to be crushed between two moored vessels. The bumpers shall provide a minimum stand-off distance of four feet.
- 6. All personnel associated with the project shall be instructed about the presence of manatees and manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. The Permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees, which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act.
- 7. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while in the immediate area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- 8. Siltation or turbidity barriers shall be made of material in which manatees can not become entangled, shall be properly secured, and shall be regularly monitored to avoid manatee entanglement or entrapment. Barriers must not impede manatee movement.
- 9. All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). All inwater operations, including vessels, must be shutdown if a

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 6 of 14

manatee(s) comes within 50 feet of the operation. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has moved beyond the 50-foot radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving.

- 10. Any collision with or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the FWC Hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC. Collision and/or injury should also be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville (1-904-232-2580) for north Florida or Vero Beach (1-561-562-3909) for south Florida.
- 11. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities. All signs are to be removed by the Permittee upon completion of the project.

 Awareness signs that have already been approved for this use by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) must be used. One sign measuring at least 3 ft. by 4 ft., which reads Caution: Manatee Area must be posted. A second sign measuring at least 81/2" by 11" explaining the requirements for "Idle Speed/No Wake" and the shut down of in-water operations must be posted in a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities.

Whales, Sea Turtles, Shorebirds, & Sturgeon

Enclosed are a Regional Biological Opinion (RBO) and an amended RBO from National Marine Fisheries Service for swimming sea turtles, whales, and sturgeon. Also, a Biological Opinion (BD) and amended BO from Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for nesting sea turtles, manatee, and shorebirds. The RBO, BO, and the amendments contains mandatory terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures that are associated with "incidental take" that is also specified in the RBO, BO and the amendments. Your authorization under the Corps permit is conditional upon your compliance with all of the mandatory terms and conditions associated with the incidental take of the attached RBO and BO and amendments, which terms and conditions are incorporated by reference in the permit. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions associated with the incidental take of the RBO, BO and amendments, where a take of the listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take, and it would also constitute non-compliance with your Corps permit. However, depending on the affected species either the FWS or NMFS is the

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 7 of 14

appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of its RBO, BO, and the amendments and with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). For further clarification on this point, you should contact the appropriate agency. Should they determine that the conditions of the RBO, BO, and the amendments have been violated, normally they will enforce the violation of the ESA, or refer the matter to the Department of Justice.

III. DISPOSAL OPERATIONS

- 13. For this permit, the term disposal operations shall mean, navigation of any vessel used in disposal operations, transportation of dredged material from the dredging site to the Fernandina ODMDS, proper disposal of dredged material at the disposal area within the Fernandina ODMDS, and transportation of the hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow back to the dredging site. The location of the Fernandina ODMDS is listed on the third page of the permit.
- 14. No more than 950,000 cubic yards of dredged material excavated in the Kings Bay Entrance Channel, defined in the dredge location listed on the second page of the permit are authorized for disposal annually at the Fernandina ODMDS.
- 15. The permittee shall use an electronic positioning system to navigate to and from the Fernandina ODMDS. For this section of the permit, the electronic positioning system is defined as: a differential global positioning system or a microwave line of site system. Use of LORAN-C alone is not an acceptable electronic positioning system for disposal operations at the Fernandina ODMDS. If the electronic positioning system fails or navigation problems are detected, all disposal operations shall cease until the failure or navigation problems are corrected.
- 16. The permittee shall certify the accuracy of the electronic positioning system proposed for use during disposal operations at the Fernandina ODMDS. The certification shall be accomplished by direct comparison of the electronic positioning system's accuracy with a known fixed point.
- 17. The permittee shall not allow any water or dredged material placed in a hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow to flow over the sides or leak from such vessels during transportation to the Fernandina ODMDS.

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 8 of 14

18. A disposal operations inspector and/or the captain of any tug boat, hopper dredge or other vessel used to transport dredged material to the Fernandina ODMDS shall ensure compliance with disposal operation conditions defined in this permit.

- 19. If the disposal operations inspector or the captain detects a violation, he shall report the violation to the permittee immediately.
- 20. The permittee shall contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section (904) 232-1665 and EPA Region 4 at (404) 562-9391 to report the violation within twenty-four (24) hours after the violation occurs. A complete written explanation of any permit violation shall be included in the post-dredging report.
- 21. When dredged material is disposed, disposal shall occur no less than 1,500 feet inside the boundaries of the Fernandina Beach ODMDS as depicted on page 9 of the drawing dated 10 June 2005.
- 22. The permittee shall use an automated disposal verification system that will continuously track (1 to 5 minute intervals) the horizontal location and draft condition of the disposal vessel (hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow) to and from the Fernandina ODMDS. This information shall be available in electronic format to the Fernandina District Corps of Engineers and EPA Region 4 upon request.
- 23. The required digitally recorded data mentioned in special condition 22 above are: date, time, vessel name, dump number, beginning and ending coordinates of the dredging area for each load, location at points of initiation and completion of disposal, description of material disposed (sand, clay or silt), volume of load, and disposal technique. This information will be available to the Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers on a daily basis.
- 24. The permittee shall use Florida or Georgia State Plane or latitude and longitude coordinates (North American Datum 1983 or 1927). State Plane coordinates shall be reported to the nearest 0.10-foot and latitude and longitude coordinates shall be reported as degrees and decimal minutes to the nearest 0.01 minutes.
- 25. The permittee shall conduct a bathymetric survey of the Fernandina ODMDS within three months prior to dredging cycles or

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 9 of 14

project disposal and within 30 days following project completion.

26. The number and length of the survey transects shall be sufficient to encompass the Fernandina ODMDS and a 0.25 nautical mile wide area around the site. The transects shall be spaced at 500-foot intervals or less.

27. Vertical accuracy of the survey shall be ±0.5 feet. Horizontal location of the survey lines and depth sounding points will be determined by an automated positioning system utilizing either microwave line of site system or differential global positioning system. The vertical datum shall be Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and the horizontal datum shall use Florida or Georgia State Plane or latitude and longitude coordinates (North American Datum 1983 or 1927). State Plane coordinates shall be reported to the nearest 0.10-foot and latitude and longitude coordinates shall be reported as degrees and decimal minutes to the nearest 0.01 minutes.

IV. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 28. The permittee shall submit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers weekly disposal monitoring reports. These reports shall contain the information described in Special Condition 22 above.
- 29. The permittee shall send one (1) copy of the disposal summary report to the Jacksonville District's Regulatory Enforcement Branch and one (1) copy of the disposal summary report to EPA Region 4 documenting compliance with all general and special conditions defined in this permit. The disposal summary report shall be sent within 45 days after completion of the disposal operations authorized by this permit. The disposal summary report shall include the following information: Corps permit number, actual start date and completion date of dredging and disposal operations, total cubic yards disposed at the Fernandina ODMDS, locations of disposal events, and pre and post disposal bathymetric survey results (in hard and electronic formats). Also, the report shall indicate whether all general and special permit conditions were met. Any violations of the permit shall be explained in detail.

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 10 of 14

Further Information:

- 1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to:
 - (x) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 3B U.S.C. 403).
 - x) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344
- (x) Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413).
 - 2. Limits of this authorization.
- a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law.
- b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
- c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
- d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal projects.
- 3. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:
- a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
- b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.
- c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.
- d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 11 of 14

e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

- 4. Reliance on Applicant's Data: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.
- 5. Reevaluation of Permit Decision: This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit
- b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 4 above).
- c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. Extensions: General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit.

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 12 of 14

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay

11 OCT 2005

(DATE)

Captain Michael W. McKinnon, USN (PERMITTEE NAME-PRINTED)

This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below

(DISTRICT ENGINEER) Robert M. Carpenter

Colonel, U.S. Army

(DATE)

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 13 of 14

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

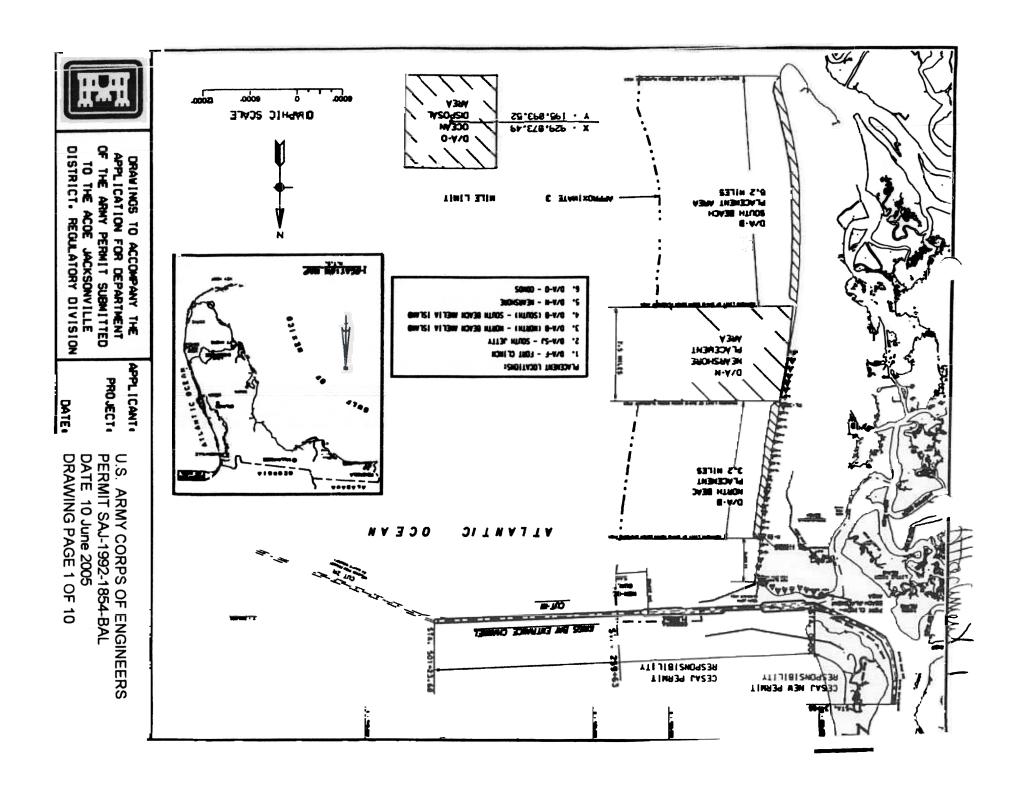
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(ADDRESS)		
(ADDRESS)		
(CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)		

PERMITTEE: U.S. Navy

PAGE 14 of 14

Attachments to Department of the Army Permit Number SAJ-1992-1854-BAL

- 1. PERMIT DRAWINGS: 10 pages, dated 10 June 2005
- 2. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Specific Conditions of the water quality permit/certification in accordance with General Condition number 5 on page 2 of this DA permit. Permit Number 0196204-001-JC with 9 pages of specific conditions and Permit Number 0196204-007-JC with 5 pages of special conditions.
- 3. National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) Regional Biological Opinion (RBO) dated 25 August 1995.
- 4. NMFS RBO Amendment dated 25 September 1997.
- 5. FWS BO dated 16 June 2003
- 6. FWS BO Amendment dated 31 August 2005.



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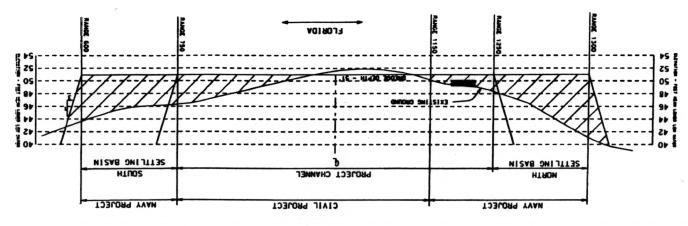
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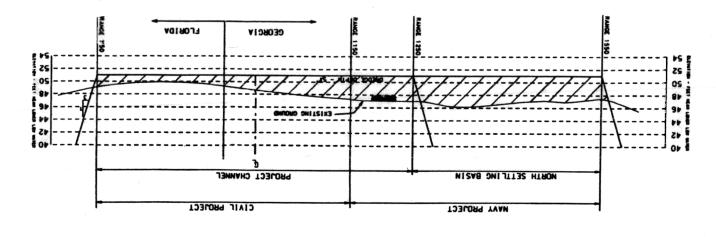
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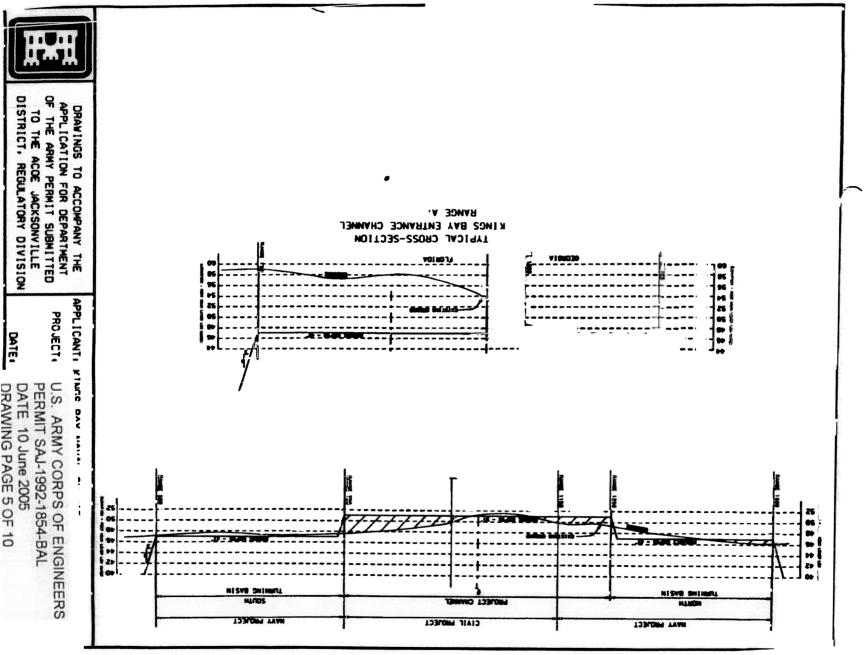
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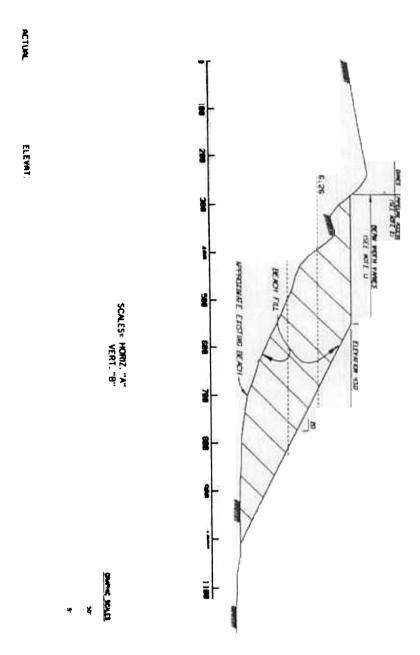
REGULATORY DIVISION

PROJEC KINGS

DRAWINGS TO ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT SUBMITTED TO THE ACCE JACKSONVILLE

APPL I CANT



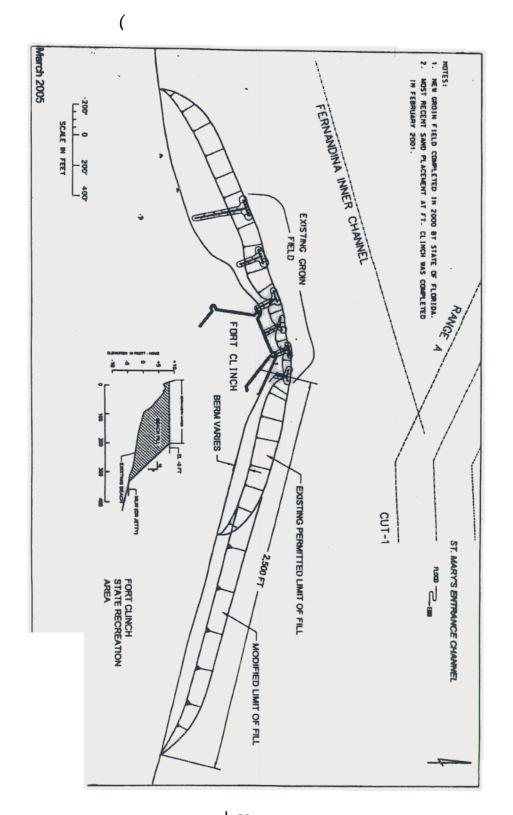




DRAWINGS TO ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT SUBMITTED TO THE ACCE JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT, REGULATORY DIVISION

APPLICANT: KINGS BAY NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE
PROJEC

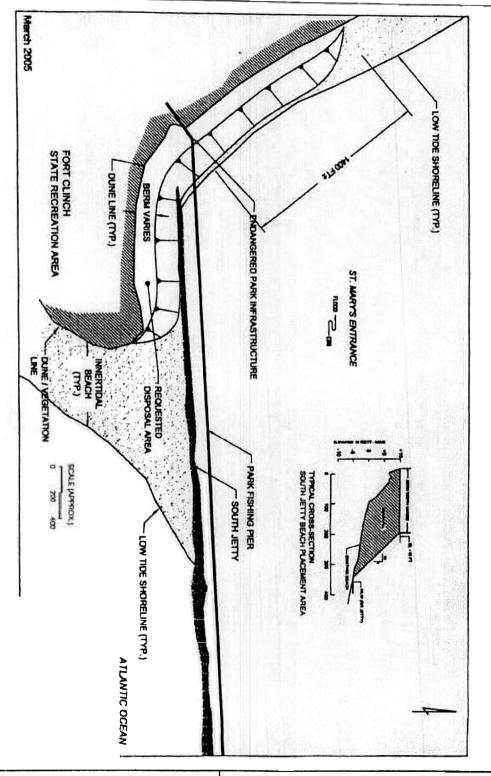
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DATE 10 June 2005 DRAWING PAGE 7 OF 10

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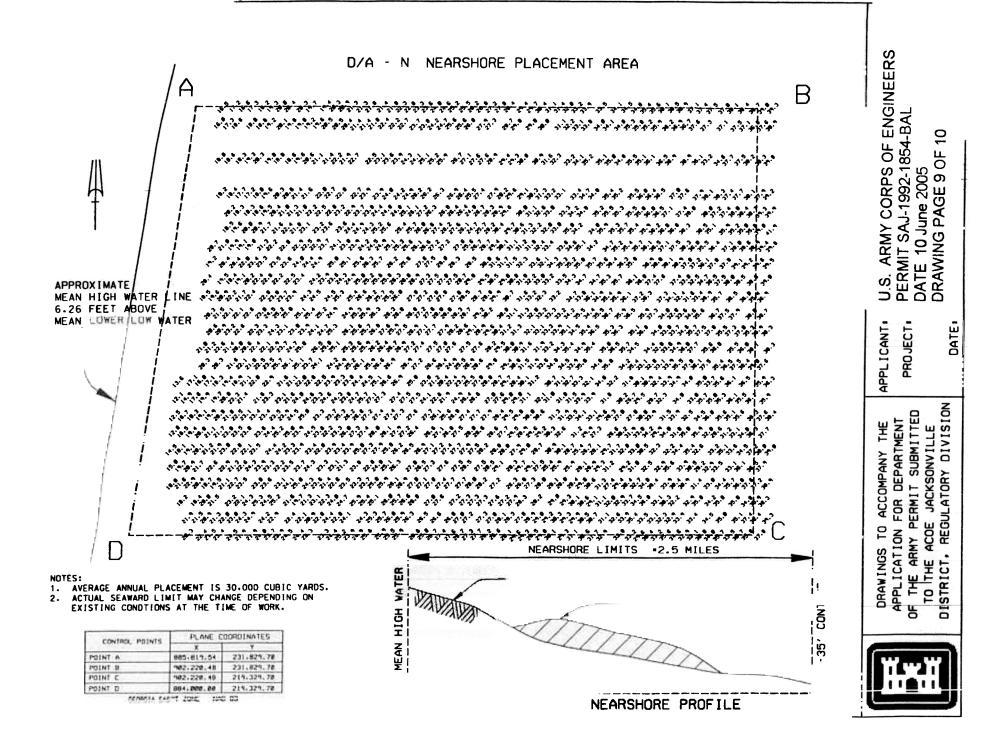
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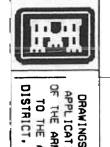
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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMIT SAJ-1992-1854-BAL DATE 10 June 2005 DRAWING PAGE 8 OF 10





TION FOR DEPARTMENT

NY PERMIT SUBMITTED

ACCE JACKSONVILLE

REGULATORY DIVISION

ACCOMPANY

APPL I CANT PROJECT:

KINGS BAY BASE

ENTRA

DATED DECEMBER 1998, AS AMENDED.

REFERENCE SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN (SIMP)

AVERAGE ANNUAL PLACEMENT 15 600,000 CUBIC YARDS.

NO ELEVATIONS TO EXCEED -30' NEAN LOWER LOW WATER.

SOWOO 0 - 4/0

OCEAN DREDGE MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE

*S3TOM

(GECS)

1,500 FEET OF BOUNDARY NO PLACEMENT WITHIN

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DATE 10 June 2005 DRAW U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

В

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

1. Applicant: Commanding Officer United States Navy

Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay

1063 USS Tennessee Avenue Kings Bay, Georgia 31547-2606

- 2. Project Location, Description, and Existing Conditions:
- a. Project Location (Dredge Location and Dredge Material Placement Location):

Dredge Location: Material would be dredged from the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base (KBNSB) Entrance Channel at Cut 1N Station 0+00 to Station 501+00 in Nassau County, Florida and Camden County, Georgia, and a small triangular section of Range A, Nassau County, Florida. The majority of the dredging work for Cut 1N is in Florida, but there is work in Georgia at the channel widener and the north border of the entrance channel in Camden County, Georgia. The main channel for Cut 1N is approximately 500' wide, the turning basin is an additional 350' wider than the main channel, and the settling basin is an additional 300' wider than the main channel on the northern limit and shifts to 150' wider on the southern limit. Also, a small triangular section in Range A, Nassau County, Florida, would be dredged.

Beach and Nearshore Placement Locations: There are four placement locations, which are: Fort Clinch State Park, North Beach Amelia Island, South Beach Amelia Island, and the Nearshore placement area. The placement areas are along Amelia Island, Nassau County, Florida. The placement of the material would depend on the type of dredge material. Beach quality material would be placed in the Fort Clinch State Park, North Beach Amelia Island, and South Beach Amelia Island placement locations. Near beach quality material would be placed in the Nearshore placement area. The four corners of the nearshore placement area have been identified as:

Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

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Northwest corner (Point A) 885,819.54 X; 231,829.70 Y
Northeast corner (Point B) 902,220.48 X; 231,829.70 Y
Southeast corner (Point C) 902,220.48 X; 219,329.70 Y
Southwest corner (Point D) 884,000.00 X; 219,329.70 Y
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The Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) Location: All other material, mainly silts and fines, would be transported seaward and deposited in the Fernandina ODMDS located in the Atlantic Ocean. The center of the disposal site is located approximately 7 miles east of the south end of Amelia Island. The site has an area of about four-square nautical miles. The corners of the offshore site have been identified as:

Northwest Latitude 30°33'00" N., Longitude 81°19'08" W. Northeast Latitude 30°33'00" N., Longitude 81°16'52" W. Southeast Latitude 30°31'00" N., Longitude 81°16'52" W. Southwest Latitude 30°31'00" N., Longitude 81°19'08" W.

b. Project Description: The applicant requests authorization to maintenance dredge the Kings Bay entrance channel, place beach quality material on the beach, near beach quality material at the near shore disposal area and transport dredge material to the Fernandina ODMDS for disposal. dredging in the Florida channel and section of the Georgia portion of the entrance channel (Cut N1) from Station 0+00 to Station 501+00 would be maintenance dredge to -51 feet (MLLW) (46 ft required depth + 3 ft advance maintenance + 2 ft allowable over depth). The turning basin on each side of Cut 1N, Stations 10 to 70, near the shoreward end of the entrance channel would be maintenance dredge to -47 MLLW (42 feet required depth + 3 ft advance maintenance depth and +2 allowable over depth) and a bottom width of 350 feet. The settling basin along the north side of Cut 1N, Stations 119 to 176, would be maintenance dredge to -51 MLLW (46 feet required depth + 3 ft advance maintenance depth and +2 allowable over depth) and a bottom width of 300 feet. The settling basin on each side of Cut 1N, Stations 176 to 226, would be maintenance dredge to -51 MLLW (46 feet required depth + 3 ft advance maintenance depth

Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

and +2 allowable over depth) and a bottom width of 150 feet. The section of the channel for Range A would be dredged to -47 MLLW (45 feet required depth + 2 ft allowable over depth). Approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards (cy) of material would be dredged on an annual basis. The amount includes approximately 750,000 cy of material from the Navy portion of the channel and 250,000 cy of material from the Civil Works portion of the channel. Approximately 50,000 cy of beach-quality material may be removed from the Georgia portion of the project each year. The dredged material would be placed along Amelia Island, in the near shore placement area, or the ODMDS. This material along with material dredged from Cumberland Island Range Cut (Station 34+65 to 0+00), Big Crab Island Range Cut, (Station 33+47 to 0+00), Range Amelia (A) 2 Cut, (Station 19+98 to 0+00), Range A1 Cut, (Station 19+98 to 0+00), Range A Cut, (Station 80+80 to 0+00), Camden County, Georgia, would be placed in the Florida placement sites mentioned above. The dredging of this material is authorized under Corps permit number 960010370 issued by the Savannah District. The dredge material on the beach at the Ft. Clinch State Park would be constructed along the +13 MLLW following the 150-foot berm (variable in width) with a seaward slope of 10:1 (H:V). The dredge material placed on the beach at the North Beach Amelia Island and South Beach Amelia Island placement areas would be from +13 MLLW following the 150-foot berm (variable in width) with a seaward slope of 20:1 (H:V). The material from the near shore disposal area would be from the existing beach to approximately -35 MLLW. (Two additional placement areas were added to this proposal that were not included in previous permits. They are within the Ft. Clinch State Recreational Area and were requested by the State of Florida.) Also, up to 950,000 cy of material would be transported by hopper dredge for disposal at the ODMDS. applicant's upland disposal site in Florida has been filled to capacity and there are no upland sites available within a tenmile radius of the project site.

c. Existing Conditions: The dredge material consists of sand, shelly material, silts, or fines. No sea grass or live bottom is associated with this project.

Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

- 3. Project Purpose: The project purpose is to maintenance dredge the Kings Bay Entrance Channel to depths deep enough to accommodate Trident submarines and other vessels. To fulfill the project purpose the dredge material must be transported and disposed of in the Fernandina ODMDS or placed along the shoreline of Amelia Island or the nearshore placement area.
- 4. Scope of Analysis: The project is limited to the Kings Bay entrance channel, four beach placement areas (Fort Clinch State Park, North Beach Amelia Island, South Beach Amelia Island, and the nearshore placement area) and the Fernandina ODMDS.
- 5. Statutory Authority: Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended [33 U.S.C. 1413] for the transport of the dredged material for the purpose of dumping the material in ocean waters at a dumping site designated under 40 CFR Part 228. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for the maintenance dredging and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the beach and nearshore placement of material.
- 6. Other Federal, State, and Local Authorizations Obtained or Required and Pending:
- a. The ODMDS has been designated as an offshore disposal site by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to Section 103 of MPRSA of 1972. A Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) was developed and agreed to pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act Amendments of 1992 to MPRSA for the management and monitoring of ocean disposal activities. The SMMP was finalized on 15 June 1997 and is effective until 15 June 2007.
- b. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): The DEP permit numbers 0196204-001 thru 005-JC and 007-JC for dredging and beach placement has been issued. The most recent modification 007-JC for beach placement at the two sections on Ft. Clinch was issued on 7 September 2005. The ODMDS site is

Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

beyond the State's territorial seas, therefore, it is exempt from DEP permitting.

- c. Florida Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency/ permit: There is no evidence or indication from the State of Florida that the project is inconsistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Plan.
- d. Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR): In a letter dated 5 August 2005, DNR stated pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the State of Georgia issues water quality certification to the United States Navy at the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base for the activity in public notice SAJ-1992-1854-BAL. The State of Georgia certifies that there is no applicable provision of Section 301; no limitation under Section 302; no standard under Section 306; and no standard under Section 307, for the applicant's activity. The State of Georgia certifies that the applicant's activity will comply with all applicable provisions of Section 303.
- e. Georgia Coastal Resources Division (CRD): In a letter dated 25 August 2005, CRD stated they reviewed the application pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act for consistency with the Georgia Coastal Management Program (Program). The Program concurs with the applicant's consistency certification.

7. Date of Public Notice and Summary of Comments:

- a. The application was received, initially reviewed and considered complete on 13 June 2005. A public notice was issued on 13 June 2005, and sent to all interested parties and Federal agencies. All comments received on this application have been reviewed and are summarized below:
- (1) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): In an email dated 21 July 2005, EPA requested clarification on the project limits for the concurrency. The Construction-Operations Division provided additional information. EPA requested an

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amendment to the 103 evaluation, which was completed on 8 August 2005. In a letter dated 31 August 2005, the EPA granted concurrency for dredged material from Cut 1N Station 80+00 to Station 501+00 to a dredging depth of -51 MLLW for placement in the ODMDS.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): In a letter dated 31 August 2005, FWS provided an amended Biological Opinion The proposal consists of expanding the scope of work for maintenance dredging and sand placement on beach areas and the affect the work would have on manatee and nesting sea turtle. The additional maintenance dredging area is in the entrance channel on the border of the Florida/Georgia line. placement work consists of expanding two areas along the beaches at the Ft. Clinch State Park. The first placement area is eastward along the Ft. Clinch State Park shoreline, which would be expanded by approximately 1600 feet. The second placement area is at the base of the south jetty (by the park fishing For the manatee, FWS stated they concur with the Corps determination that the project "may affect, but was not likely to adversely affect" the manatee provided that the Standard Manatee Construction Precautions and the two special conditions in FWS's letter dated 3 May 2000, are made a condition of the permit. Regarding nesting sea turtle, FWS amended the BO to include the additional 2 areas for a total of 9 miles of nesting beach (previous BO was for 8.4 miles of beach). FWS determined the project "may affect" the sea turtles and provided an FWS provided an Incidental Take Statement with incidental take. Amount of Extent of Incidental Take, Incidental Take Statement, and Terms and Conditions Summation Paragraph was included in the In addition, under the Fish and Wildlife amended BO. Coordination Act, the FWS noted the proposed sand placement is in an area of shorebird nesting for Least terns and Wilson's The FWS recommended the timing of the project be from October 30 to April 1 to minimize impacts to nesting sea turtles and shorebirds. If the project falls outside of the recommended timeline, the FWS recommends 2 special conditions for shorebird protection.

Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

- (3) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): In a letter dated 27 July 2005, NMFS stated that based on the information provided adverse effects on fishery resources under their purview would be minimal. Therefore, they have no additional comments or recommendations to provide at this time.
- (4) State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): By letter dated 19 July 2005, SHPO stated that because of the project location and/or nature of the proposed project it would have no effect on any historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.
- b. Response to the comments: The comments from EPA on the limits of the concurrency request and the amended BO were coordinated with the applicant. The 103 concurrency request was revised and the placement of material from Stations 350+00 to Station 501+00 in the ODMDS was added to the 103 Evaluation. (The public notice included the dredging of the entrance channel from Station 0+00 to Station 501+24, but not the placement of the material in the ODMDS.) The revised 103 Evaluation included an explanation as to why this new material met the exclusionary criteria. EPA granted concurrency for the disposal of this material in the ODMDS on 31 August 2005.

8. Alternatives:

a. Avoidance (No action, uplands, availability of other sites): The no action alternative would not allow for project completion. Dredging is needed for Trident submarines and other vessels to access the Kings Bay Naval Base. The most cost effective way of disposing the dredge material is to place it on nearby beaches, nearshore placement area, or in the ODMDS. Also, the transportation and disposal of the material in an ocean disposal site is needed because the applicant's upland disposal site, for the most part, has been filled to capacity. The existing Fernandina ODMDS is approved by EPA and has been used in the past.

Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

- b. Minimization (modified project designs, etc.): The project has been limited to the area within the Kings Bay entrance channel. There are no wetlands, sea grasses, or hard bottom habitats in the project area. The project has been minimized to the greatest extent practicable.
- c. Compensatory Mitigation (Wetland enhancement, creation, etc.): The project is expected to result in minimal environmental impacts. Therefore, no mitigation has been proposed or requested.
- 9. Evaluation of the 404(b)(1 Guidelines:
 - a. Restrictions on discharges:
 - (1 Alternatives (See paragraph 8):
- (a) The activity is located in a special aquatic site (wetlands, sanctuaries and refuges, mudflats, vegetated shallows, coral reefs, riffle & pool complexes):

(b) The activity needs to be located in a special aquatic site to fulfill its basic purpose.

(c) It has been demonstrated in paragraph 8 above that there are no practicable nor less damaging alternatives which would satisfy the project's basic purpose.

- (2) Other program requirements:
- (a) The proposed activity violates applicable State water quality standards or Section 307 prohibitions or effluent standards.

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Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

(b) The proposed activity jeopardizes the continued existence of federally listed threatened or endangered species or affects their critical habitat.

(c) The proposed activity violates the requirements of a federally designated marine sanctuary.

(3) The activity would cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the United States, including adverse effects on human health; life stages of aquatic organisms; ecosystem diversity, productivity and stability; and recreational, esthetic, and economic values.

(4) Appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts of the discharge on the aquatic ecosystem.

b. Findings: The proposed project has been reviewed in accordance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. It has been demonstrated, through the review process, that the proposed project is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative considering costs, existing technology, and logistics. It would not cause or contribute to violations of State Water quality standards, jeopardize the existence of any endangered species or impact a marine sanctuary. No significant degradation would be expected and all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize impacts. The applicant is willing to follow the FWS and NMFS terms and conditions stated in the Biological Opinions and the amendments.

10. Public Interest Review:

a. All public interest factors have been reviewed. The following public interest review factors are considered relevant

Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

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to this proposal. Both cumulative and secondary impacts on the public interest were considered:

- (1) Economics: The maintenance project would allow the Navy to fully utilize the existing facility. The project would benefit the economy of the area, and provide additional jobs during construction. The project would contribute to the local economy through the purchase of goods and services. Consequently, the facility would benefit the local economy.
- (2) Esthetics: The proposed project would alter the esthetic perception of the area. Whether this change is adverse or an improvement is a matter of individual judgment.
- (3) General Environmental Concerns: The project would not impact the adjacent shoreline. The utilization of the ODMDS alleviates impacts to the local landfill and is not expected to result in adverse impacts to the marine ecosystem.
- (4) Historic Properties: The project is not expected to impact any known historical or cultural resource.
- (5) Fish and Wildlife Values: Some of these values would be lost during disposal, however, they should reestablish after disposal is complete. Also, as long as special conditions are added to the permit for the protection of manatee, short nose sturgeon, sea turtles and right whales, it is not believed that the project would adversely impact any endangered or threatened species.
- (6) Flood Hazards: The project would not have an effect on flooding.
- (7) Navigation: The project is expected to aid navigation and is important for National Security.
- (8) Shore Erosion and Accretion: The project is not expected to have an adverse impact on this parameter.

Subject: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for Above-Numbered Permit Application

- (9) Safety: The project is expected to increase the safe utilization of the local channel through the removal of existing shoals. The proposed maintenance would provide uniform depth through the access channel and basin.
- b. Describe the relative extent of the public and private need for the proposed structure or work: Public benefits include the continuing use of the channel and a potential increase in the tax base through employment opportunities. This is also one of several Naval bases along the east coast, it is important that these bases are maintained for National Security.
- c. Describe the practicability of using reasonable alternative locations and methods to accomplish the objective of the proposed work where there are unresolved conflicts as to resource use: There were no unresolved conflicts regarding resource use. Alternatives have been discussed in paragraph 7.
- d. Describe the extent and permanence of the beneficial and/or detrimental effects which the proposed work is likely to have on the public and private uses to which the area is suited: Detrimental impacts are expected to be minimal and confined to the actual work area. These impacts are also expected to be temporary. Beneficial results include an increased capability to navigate the channel.
- e. Threatened or Endangered Species: The NMFS issued a Regional Biological Opinion (RBO) on 25 August 1995, to the South Atlantic Division for hopper dredging activities along the Southeast United States Atlantic coast. The RBO includes the affect the work would have on swimming sea turtles, stortnose sturgeons, and whales. The RBO was amended on 25 September 1997, to increase the incidental take of sea turtles (loggerheads). The RBO covers hopper dredging for Corps projects, therefore, formal coordination with NMFS was not needed.

The FWS issued a Biological Opinion (BO) on 3 May 2000, (FWS Log No. 00-392), for the manatee and nesting sea turtle. On 16

June 2003, (FWS Log No. 03-1183), FWS issued a second BO to update the BO due to a request for changes to the reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions in the Incidental Take statement for the sea turtles.

This proposal is basically the same as what is noted in the previous BO's, with some minor changes. The changes are an additional area for maintenance dredging at the Florida/Georgia border and an expansion of two beach placement areas at Ft. Clinch. On 23 June 2005, the Corps sent FWS a letter. letter stated that for the nesting sea turtles and the additional beach placement area we would incorporate the Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Terms and Conditions from the 16 June 2003 BO into the plans and specifications to the project. For the manatee and additional dredging area, we would incorporate the standard construction conditions for manatee and two special conditions that were added in the 3 May 2000 BO. The letter also stated that the standard special conditions for the protection and monitoring of migratory birds and their nests would be included if dredging occur from April to July. Corps requested concurrence on our determination. FWS decided that an amended BO was required because the incidental take area for nesting sea turtles was extended. FWS issued an amended BO on 31 August 2005, which extended the incidental take area for nesting sea turtles and concurred with our determination on manatee. FWS also recommended two special conditions for The RBO and amended RBO from NMFS and BO shorebird protection. and amended BO from FWS would be attached to the permit, if issued, to ensure that the applicant complies with the mandatory terms and conditions and reasonable and prudent measures. Therefore, the Corps believes the project is not expected to adversely impact any threatened or endangered species.

f. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts: Cumulative or secondary impacts are not expected as a result of the disposal. It is anticipated that the material would eventually disperse over time.

- g. Essential Fisheries Habitat (EFH): The project would not adversely affect EFH. There is no hard bottom on the intertidal and subtidal habitat that would be impacted by this project.
- Corps analysis of comments and responses: questions from EPA on the project limits and FWS provided an amended Biological Opinion. The EPA requested clarification on the project limits. The Corps realizes that the project has several components, which may be confusing. The Corps reviewed the information and drawings submitted to ensure all aspects of the project were included in the proposal. The public notice included the dredging of the entrance channel from Station 0+00 to Station 501+00, but did not include information on the type of dredge material from Station 350+00 to 501+00. As a result of internal discussions a revised 103 evaluation was submitted to EPA. The revised evaluation included information as to why the Corps believed material from Stations 350+00 to 501+00 met the exclusionary criteria. EPA reviewed the revision and granted concurrency. The amended BO from FWS was given to the applicant and the applicant agreed to implement the terms and conditions of the BO. The amended BO along with other documents that address the Endangered Species concerns would be attached to the permit, if issued, this would ensure the applicant complies with the mandatory terms and conditions and reasonable and prudent measures. All concerns as a result of the public notice were addressed.

11. Determinations:

a. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): Having reviewed the information provided by the applicant and all interested parties and an assessment of the environmental impacts, I find that this permit action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.

- b. Public Interest Determination: I find that issuance of a Department of the Army permit is not contrary to the public interest.
- c. Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule Review: The proposed permit action has been analyzed for conformity applicability pursuant to regulations implementing Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. It has been determined that the activities proposed under this permit will not exceed de minims levels of direct emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors and are exempted by 40 CFR Part 93.153. Any later indirect emissions are generally not within the Corps' continuing program responsibility and generally cannot be practicably controlled by the Corps. For these reasons a conformity determination is not required for this permit action.

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Commanding